WASHINGTON

INTERESTING PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS

Passage in the House of the Bill Designating the 4th of Morch as the Time for the Meeting of Congress.

The Bill Regulating the Tenure of office Reported in the Senate.

Protracted Senatorial Debate on the Distriot of Columbia Franchise Bill.

Correspondence Relating to the Discovery and Arrest of John H. Surratt.

&c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1866.

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The adoption by the House of an act for the assembling of the Fortieth Congress on the 4th of March will throw out of representation six loyal States, unless otherwise arranged for by special act:—namely, New Hampshire, which votes for Representatives in March; Rhode Island and Connecticut, in April; California, in September; Kentucky and Tennosses, in August.

Territorial Governments for the South.

There is an evident determination on the part of the radicals to push their reconstruction policy to the point of bringing the States lately in rebellion down to the condition of Territories, and organize them anew into

dition of Territories, and organize them anew integovernments. This may not be accomplished im mediately, it is averred, but that the movement will thus

The Test Onth Decision.

In the United States Supreme Court to-day the case of the Missouri test eath was resumed. There was some spectation that a decision would be rendered in this mass this morning, but Lorenzo Sherwood, of Texas, adsuis morning, but Lorenzo Snerwood, or lexas, ac-seed to the Court a metion for a reargument of the s, stating, in substance, that it was a matter in which loyal people of the South took a deep interest, and t himself and General A. J. Hamilton, of Texas, were of the opinion that the case on behalf of the gov-ernment, in support of the constitutionality of the eath, had not been fully presented. It was, therefore, de-sired that the Court would hear further argument before fering an opinion in the case. The Chief Justice gested to counsel that his motion be put in writing field, stating that it would then be considered.

stored to applicants in open court, and the ap and there subscribe to the test oath. This infor

There is the best authority for saying that the Presi-ent has positively determined not to interfere in the that he will remain where he is until arrangements can be made for his trial some time during the ensuing

by the Secretary of State to dine with him yes-but declined on account of ill health. ral Grant and Lady Give a Grand Fancy

Dress Masquerade to Juveniles. and fancy dress masquerade was given to-night oral and Mrs. General Great to juveniles at their eral D. H. Rucker's son appeared as Pizarro. Cong gentlemen sustained the characters of Gen od as fairles, queens and gypsies. It was a moration of the season of festivities

The Safety of Haman Life on Shipboard.

The Safety of Human Life on Shiphoard.
The Secretary of the Treasury has addressed the following circular to inspectors of steamboats:

Exa—On the 6th ult, a circular letter was addressed to the supervising inspectors of steamboats in the several districts, calling their attention to the provisions of section ten of the set of July 25, 1856, and directing them to see at once that all passenger vessels, propoled wholly or in part by steam, are equipped with suitable disengaging apparatus, as required by the above mentioned section; and that no certificate of license be granted unless vessels are thus provided. Numerous inquiries having been made by inspectors and others whether, under said act, it is required that all vessels of the class referred to shall be provided with a disengaging apparatus, or may defer the same until the expiration of their present certificates of license, you are hereby informed, in explanation of the circular of November 6, that the provisions of the law apply at once to all steam passenger vessels, whether bearing unexpired certificates of license or not, and that the penalty for noncompliance is fixed by section two of the net of July 7, 1858, and section one of the set of August 20, 1852, being a fine of 4000 for each offence. The act of July 25, 1866, contemplates a duty no less responsible than that of providing in the most efficient manner possible for the satety of bunnas lives on shipboard, and any refusal or neglect to comply with the requirements deemed e-sential to this object will be visited with the full penatties prescribed by law. H. McCULOCH, Secretary of the Treasury.

Payment of State Debts Incurred During the War.

The memorial of Comptroller Hillhouse, of New York, urges Congress in a lengthy argument to provide for the payment of the State debts incurred in the presention of the war. The object for which they were incurred he declures to be no less national than the preservation of the government, and that a weakness in the members of the Union would have been incompatible with vigor in the head, and therefore policy, no less than justice, calls for payment of those debts. He deems it doubtful cause for payment of those debts. He deems it doubtful whether, with the currency in a normal condition, State taxes, levied on real or personal property, will more than suffice for ordinary State expenses—taxes which bear unequally on land and tend to oppress the forming Interests, on which the prosperity of all others depends. He therefore proposes that the general government shall relinquish some particular source of revenue to the several States, to be used in the liquidation of war debts, and suggests that the tax on incomes be thus relin-qui-hed as an ample and proper item for such a purpose, orpecially as it is questionable whether it comes within the meaning of the word "indirect" in the constitutional clause concerning taxation.

clause concerning taxation.

Wholesale Commutation by the President.
President Johnson has to cay issued an order, in compliance with the suggestion of a memorial presented to him by Br. J. H. Griscom, on behalf of the New York Prison Association, granting the privileges of the com-mutation system of the State of New York to all convicts under sentence of the civil and military courts of the United States, extending to them the same elemency and abstement of time, upon the same terms provided for the convicts under sentence of the courts of the State, as an inducement and consideration for good con-duct and faithful and diligent attention of the convicts in the observance of the regulations of the prisons and in the prformance of the work imposed upon them. This benevolent suggestion received the prompt and cornial essent of the President, and in accordance theresortial season of the President, and in accordance there-with the Attorney General was requested immediately to prejure a suitable document for the execution of the design—a movement which will undoubtedly increase the good order of the prisoners and encourage the re-formation of those from which the benefits of the law have heretofore been withheld. A law of similar pur-port, applicable to all the Sister in the Union, was to-day introduced in Congress by Sensior Harris, which will desinters such be created.

agreed upop any financial measure, therefore it is not true, as has been telegraphed hence, that they have decided favorably upon Representative Boutwell's proposition contemplating weekly raise of gold.

All attempts to interfere with the national banks or the currency were summarrily voted down in the House to-day. These straws are highly suggestive of the financial policy of Congress during the present session.

The House Investigating Committees.

Among the committees of investigation appointed by the House to-day that relative to the New Orleans riot—Elliot. of Massachuseits, chalrmain—will soon proceed

Elliot, of Massachusetts, chairmain—will soon proceed South, probably to-morrew. That relative to the murder of three soldiers in South Carolina, and the facts concerning the discharge of the culprits—Pike, chair-man—will hold its meetings here, as will also that en-gaged in investigating frauds upon the revenue, Derling

The Extra Bounty.

In the case of a soldier, recently deceased, who had bequeathed his claim for extra bounty to a person to whom he was indebted for attendance, it has been decided by the proper accounting officer that the act asserted, and the legatee in the case referred to canno inherit the bounty bequeathed him by the deceased sol

menced to pay the extra bounty in certain cases where full information has been obtained from the Second

Abditor as shown by the ments on file in his office.

Transportation of Officers and Soldiers.

It has been decided that officers or soldiers who deciline to accept transportation in kind upon muster out will not be allowed any claim to pay for travel to place

among the aspirants for these agreeable positions is energetic and persistent. But six appointments have been made within the last few months, four of which— George Pomeroy, J. Steinberger, William G. Moore and George P. Ire—were made to fill vacancies in the old regular army. Under the provisions of the new army bill Colonels N. B. Brown and D. McClure, who have been discharging the duties of Deputy Paymaster General have been appointed Assistant Paymaster Generals, and J. C. McGrath, of Missouri, and W. W. Johnson, of Obio, have been appointed Paymasters.

The Femule Clerks in the Trensury Depart-

ment.

The subject of dispensing with the employment of women in the Treasury Department is undergoing discussion. It is asserted that while many of them are cussion. It is asserted that while many of them are capable and earn their salaries, others are inefficient and undeserving, notwithstanding which it is impossible to discharge them, owing to the importunity of friends and other influences, the pay being greater than that which women receive in any other vocation. The pressure for appointments is overwhelming, the President's house, General Grant's headquarters and the Treasury Departgreater portion of the time of the secretary and his as-sistants is taken up in retusing to employ women and in explaining the reason for such refusal. There are now from fifty to one hundred more women in the Treasury Department than the Secretary is justified in retaining. In view of all the disadvantages attending the employ-ment of women, and the continued pressure for appointthe Treasury is considering the expediency of following the example of the Secretary of the Interior and dis-missing all the female employes.

missing all the female employés.

The Measurchusetts Liquer Cases.

Mr. Richardson, of Boston, arrived this morning and entered for trial in the Supreme Court of the United States soveral liquer cases involving questions not decided last winter. The questions may or not be heard during this term. An effort, it is said, will be made in Congress to change the law upon the subject

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE

Washington, Dec. 10, 1866.

Mesers. Brown, (rep.) of Mo., and Sprague, (rep.) of

Mr. Mondan, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a Mr. Monors, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a me-morial of the Chamber of Commerce of New York, representing that the records and papers in the Clerk's office of the United States District Court for the Southern district of Mississippi, have been des-troyed by fire, which documents contained evidence of great importance to citizens of the Northern, Eastern proved by parole testimony or by a copy thereof cer-tified as a copy by the Clerk of said court, with the same

THE PERSONAL OF A TRANSPARENT LINE TO THE WART COAST OF PRINCE.

Mr. Morgan presented resolutions of the Chamber of Mr. Morgan presented resolutions of the Chamber of Commerce of New York in favor of the employment of nortion of the actional ravy for the purpose of accertaining by proper soundings the facilities afforded by the head of the Atlantic Ocean for laying lines of telegraphic cable directly connecting our Atlantic coast with the Western coast of France and Southern Europe. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

AN INCREASED DUTY ON SILK MANUFACTURES ASKED.

Mr. PRELINGUETIES, (rep.) of N. J., presented the memorial of the silk manufacturers of New Jersey, praying for the passage of a terif bill increasing the duty on silk manufactures, which was referred to the Committee on Figure 1.

urging the passage of a bill for the protection of domestic wool growers. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Ransay, (rep.) of Minn., offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:—

Resoived. That the Committee on Public Lands be directed to Inquire into the expediency of making the Agricultural and Menanical College land scrip receivable in payment for pre-emptions.

THE POPULATION AND WEALTH OF COLORADO.

Mr. WARE, (rep.) of Obio, presented a monortal of citizens of Colorado, controverting the statements made that the Territory is declining in ropulation, wenth and industry, and setting forth numerous statistics and facts relative thereto, as telegraphed to the Associated Pressystateday. The memorial was ordered printed.

Mr. Wilson, (rep.) of Mass., presented a petition for increased pay of army officers, which was referred to the Military Committee.

REGRESOINEN, (rep.) of Me., presented petitions from department cierka asking a reorganization of the cierical force of the departments and increase of pay. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Mergala, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a petition for increased import day on linered oil. Referred to the Finance Committee.

PRESSYLATION OF CONNELL REWEST'S PETITION.

to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Mengary, rep.) of N. Y., presented a petition for increased tapport dety on lineed oil. Referred to the Finance Committee.

PROSENTATION OF CONSILL REWEST'S PRITTION.

Mr. SUSSEM, (rep.) of Mass, presented the petition of Mr. Cornell Jewett, that has but Hamilton be declared President of the United States. (Langhter), Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Admission of Schmarks Recommended back the bill to admit Nebraska, with a recommendation that it pass.

Mr. Emercia, (rep.) of Vi. from the Committee on Reserved ment, to whom has been referred Mr. Whilame's bill to again the term of office, reported the following as a substitute and recommon ded that it pass.

Mr. Emercia, (rep.) of Vi. from the Committee on Reserved ment, to whom has been referred Mr. Whilame's bill to requisite the fellowing as a substitute and recommon ded that it pass.—

Be the casted by the Semate and Hause of Representatives of the United States of America, is Courted State, of the Transley, of War, of the Navy, and of the Interior, the Postmater Concerns and the Attorney General, holding any aviation to which he has been appointed, by and with the article and concent of the fencies, and nevery person who shall cornell and the Attorney formats, holding any aviation to which he has been appointed, by and with the article and concent of the fencies, and nevery person who shall cornelled and only qualified to any such office until a successory shall have been in like manner appointed as aforessid, encepting Judges of the United State Courts, and excepting those specially excepted in accion men full sack, shall, during a recons of the senate and function is encouraged to the State of the President person become legislation of the Atterney as perially excepted in accion men of the State of the Atterney of the President person become legislation to make a perial to the duty of the President special to the senate and in our claim the province state of the Atterney of the President person become legislation

contained shall be construed to axiond the tarm of any office the duration of which is limited by law.

Mr. Energy as said that in reporting the above the committee had been actuated by no feeling of hostility against the present or any other administration, but in what the committee conceived to be the true republican interests of the country, under all administrations, and under the domination of all parties, in the growth which is before us in the future. In that spirit, said Mr. Edmunds, we ask attention to the bill when it comes to be considered. I move that the amendment be printed and the bill made the special order for Hursday next.

Mr. Figsennex hoped Mr. Edmunds would withdraw his motion for special order, and instead of that give notice that he would call up the bill on Thursday.

Mr. Edwinds compiled with the suggestion and modified his motion accordingly.

UR ADMISSION OF COLORADO.

Mr. Wade introduced a bill for the admission of Colorado. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

AS FIGNALS CENTRAL PACIFIC RAIMAND.

Mr. CONNES, (rep.) of Cal., introduced a bill to grant aid for the construction of the San Francisco Courtal Pacific Raimadd. Referred to the Committee on Public lands.

Mr. CONNES, (rep.) of Cal., introduced a bill to grant aid for the construction of the San Francisco Courtal Pacific Raimadd. Referred to the Committee on Public lands.

and computing versus and environ to the relection, and who has ditten of the United States, and who has ditten of the United States, and who has disting the United States, and who has disting the previous on any election therein, shall be notified to the elective franchise, and shall be deemed an elector, and distinction on account of color or root.

Size 2. This am person whose duty it shall be to receive votes at any election within the District of Colombia who shall will cally reject the rote of any person entitled to such the person (injured, and shall be liable on indictment and convexton. If such act was done knowingly, to a due not exceeding \$5.00 or to impressoment for a term not acceeding one year in the juil of said District, or to both, represent the person of the convexton of the person of the color o

rebellion.

Mr. Cowas, (rep.) of Pa., would like Mr. Anthony to state by whom the existence of the disqualification mentioned in his amendment was to be determined. It could not be assumed that the people of this District were guilty of treason until they had been fairly tried and convicted. The law presumes them all innocest, and the constitution declared that they could be convicted only by due process of law. If there was any man in the District who had committed treason there were laws under which he could be freed.

Mr. ASTRIDEY and there was a mode provided in the sixth section to obtain the evidence necessary under his amendment. He supposed there were as many ways of ascertaining whether a man had been in the rebel army as of ascertaining whether he was twenty-one years of are.

Mr. Brown objected to the reading and writing qualification, and/on that account would vote against Mr. Anthony's amendment, because he did not wish to perfect any amendment, because he did not wish to perfect any amendment, which contained such a proposition.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WARRINGTON, Dec. 10, 1866 REPUBLICAN FORM OF COVERNMENT TO CENTAIN SOUTHERN

for bills, the following were introduced :
By Mr. Wasn, (rep.) of N. Y. -- Bill to grant to certain

States that have been in rebellion a republican form of government. It was read twice and referred to the Reconstruction Committee, and ordered printed.

It provides for the appointment of Provisional Governom for those States, who are to call State Conventions. All male persons, native born or naturalized, who have the manufacture of the election district as y conting tree.

ernors for those States, who are to call State Conventions. All male persons, native born or natoralized, who have been residents of the election district six months, irrespective of color, of the age of twenty-one years, and not belonging to the excepted classes, to vote in selecting delegates to the conventions; the delegates to be loyal men. The excepted classes are those who have held office, evil or military, under the confederacy; guerilias, publishers of rebel newspapers, rebels who violated as only to support the constitution, or who have been adocated at the Naval or Military Arademy. When the delegates frame a State constitution that shall secure suffrage to all but the exceptional classes, and shall disquality from holding office all who alded in the rebellion, and secure to all men not disqualited by trasson or other orime equal rights and full protection, shall in the event of the adoption of the constitution by the people provide for the election of State, judicial and legislative officers, and shall submit the constitution to the people authorized to vote for delegates for their adoption or rejection. When said constitution to the people authorized to vote for delegates for their adoption or rejection. When said constitution shall be adopted, and the amendments proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States are adopted, then the loyal members of Congress from those states to be admitted to their seaso.

AMERICAN ATLANTO TRABOLED CONFANY.

Mr. DEMILION, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a bill granting a right to land a submarine cable of the American Atlanto Trabolacy in the propose of establishing telegraphic communications, between the United States and other nations, via Bermidas, Azores Idands States and other nations, via Bermidas, Azores Idands

tio Telegraph Company. It was read Iwice and referred to the Fone Office Committee.

The bill grants this corporation, organized under the laws of the Stare of New York for the purpose of establishing telegraphic communications between the United States and other nations, via Hermidas, Azores Idands and Portugal, the sole right and privilege of the Atlantic coast within the jurisdiction of the United States for the period of twenty years; the company to commence operations in two years and the government to have priority of use.

Mr. Research (dent.) of N. J., introduced a bill to repeal the neutrality has. Read twice and referred to the Judiciary Committee. It repeals all the act entitled "An act in addition to the act for the pusishment of certain crimes against the United States and the acts therein menti-med everypting the twelfth section thereof."

VALIBUTY or responsymat. PRINCLANATIONS, RIG.

Mr. Bindhaw, 1991 of Otho, introduced a bill tenderlar valid and conclusive certain proclamations of the President and acts in purecase thereof, and the make President and acts in purecase thereof, and the make treason of one by distragehesing within the Durrice of Coumbin all persons who refuncting the proclamations of the first relationships.

Mr. Parogram, (rep.) of Ind., introduced a bill to make treason of one by distragehesing within the Durrice of Coumbin all persons who refuncately here arms against the Entited States or homegaten or within the Durrice of Coumbin all persons who refuncately here arms against the Entitle States or homegaten or within the Durrice of The states of America or the States of America of the war of 1812. Reserved to the Committee on Pensons.

Provides or the Southern of the war of the County of the Committee on Pensons.

Provides or the Southern Described the twentiers of the Committee on Pensons.

Provides or the Southern Described to the Committee on Pensons.

Mr. Proon, (rep.) of N. J., presented to the Committee on Pensons.

Mr. McBurk, (rep.) of Ill., introduced a bill providing for an additional term of the Olitectal Goard of the United States for the Southern Dastrict of Illinois. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Paisw, (rep.) of Wis., introduced a bill to provide for the establishment of one or more naval depots on the Northern and Northwestern lakes. Referred to the Committee on Naval Adhirs.

Mr. Biggs, (rep.) of Cal., introduced a bill granting lands to sid in the construction of a radiosal from Stockton to Copperspois, California. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. McBurk, (rep.) of Cal., introduced a joint resolution, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase a scitable site for a branch mint at Sen Francisco on the approval of the title by the United States District Attorney for Callfornia; the resolution not to be construed as authorizing the rection of a brilding thereon until jurisdiction thereof is coded by the State of California. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be in tructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law hat officers appointed from the volunteer service into the gular army may be brevetted in the latter for gallant aeritorious or faithful conduct in the former.

On motion of Mr. ROLLING, (rep.) of N. H., the Nava Committee was instructed to report a bill making the approlament of the heads of the different mechanics departments at the various Navy Yaftis subject to the approval of the Senate.

approval of the Senate.

THE NORFOLK RIOT.

On motion of Mr. ELLOY, (rep.) of Mass., the Secretary of War was directed to communicate information in reference to the riot at Norfolk Va., on the 18th of April, 1866. Also any evidence or documents relating to the alleged imprisonment in Georgia of Rev. William Fincheo, a missionary to the freedmen of that State.

On motion of Mr. Allett, (rep.) of Mass., the Postmaster General was directed to communicate information as to the failure of the Brazilian steamship line to connect.

mittee.

THE COASTWINE TRADE.

On motion of Mr. BRANDRUEE, (rep.) of Conn., the Committee on Commerce was instructed to inquire wrether foreign reassis have been or are engaged in the coastwise trade, contrary to the laws of the United States, and report the facts with such recommendations as shall prevent the same.

INCRESE OF PAY OF DEFAILED SOLDIERS.

On motion of Mr. BANKS, (rep.) of Mass, the Military Committee was instructed to consider the expediency of providing for an increase of pay for soldiers detailed for the purpose of clerical duty in the several departments.

On motion of Mr. Garriero, (rep.) of Ohio, the l Committee was instructed to inquire into the expe of presenting to the State of Ohio the isnaber as maternal belonging the United States at Camp Ohio, to be used in the erection of a State asylum idiotic.

On motion of Mr. McKer, (rep.) of Ky., the Committee on Ways and Means was instructed to inquire into the expediency of exempting distillers who disti annually less than twenty barries from the license tax imposed by act of July 13, 1896.

on Pusite Expenditures. Mr. Annell.

Fig. RE. Let.

The Breaken, pressuind a communication from the
Navy Department in reference to the House rescention
of the 27th of July, 1865, oftend by M. Wright, which
directed an examination of the conclution of howare Ray,
M. J. and the mouths of the Parame and Harkensock
from, motion than the was native for the Count Bur-

On motion of Mr. Caracterich, prep; of them, the student of composition of the control of a finite symptotic material belonging the United States at Ching Chairs, and the control of a finite symptotic control of the control of the control of student symptotic control of the c